

Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2022, Increase Recycling Working Group Meeting

Present: See Appendix A
Next meeting: TBD
Prepared by: Emma MacDonald and Luciana Granstrand, CT DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting began at 1:03 pm.

Co-Chairs Ben Florsheim, Mayor, City of Middletown, and Denise Raap, First Selectwoman, Town of Litchfield, provided welcoming remarks, introductions, housekeeping rules, and an overview of the Increase Recycling Working Group efforts and future topics of interest as part of the CCSMM initiative process.

II. Committee Reports

The co-chairs provided a summary of the meeting's agenda and shared that the focus of the meeting would be a discussion on the new Miniature Liquor Bottle (Minis) legislation, P.A. 21-58 (Act), and how municipalities are using the funds from the surcharge related to the Act, as well as brainstorming new ideas for how to use the funds.

A panel composed of the following representatives presented on topics regarding P.A. 21-58:

Chris Nelson, Supervising Environmental Analyst, Sustainable Materials Management, CT DEEP gave a brief overview of Public Act 21-58 and emphasized the statutory language guiding municipalities on how to spend their funds.

Representative Joseph Gresko discussed P.A. 21-58 and the possibility of additional statutory language amendments to provide guidance and expressly direct municipalities on how to use the general funds.

Mike Purcaro, Town Administrator, Vernon shared that his town established Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with Opportunity Works of Connecticut and Next Step, a Program created by Vernon Public Schools. The MOAs allocate Minis funds to the groups to clean up mini bottles and other refuse at several locations in Vernon.

Laura Francis, SRCOG presented that the Towns of Durham and Middlefield, with the help of local grassroots groups and some clubs at the local high schools, are trying to use their funds to improve their shared Municipal Transfer Station and provide education and outreach.

Kim O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, Middletown presented that the town is focusing on commercial food waste from restaurants, supporting local litter cleanup volunteer groups. The available funds can help the town to hire a recycling center educator to prevent contamination at the facility and create signage for catch basins.

III. Roundtable

There was an opportunity for participants to ask questions to the presenters. Members were interested in learning about the logistics of hiring people to clean up litter, and the importance of giving residents

input in deciding where the funds are going in their communities. Additionally, concerns about cleanup on state roads and educational campaigns to target mini bottle consumers were raised. Members were also concerned with the quick turnaround on the October funds and discussed non-lapsing accounts as a potential solution.

Co-Chair Florsheim asked members to participate in a poll created by DEEP staff to help the Increase Recycling Working Group focus on topics that municipalities are interested in addressing.

As reflected in the poll (Appendix B), members were interested in Enforcement (Litter prevention/residential and commercial food waste diversion/recycling), school – 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), school cafeteria waste, and statewide school recycling curriculum.

Other discussion included next steps and the next full coalition meeting that will be determined.

IV. Public Comment

Members of the public were asked to use the “chat” or “raise hand” feature to indicate if they wanted to comment.

Representative Joseph Gresko reiterated the opportunity to improve the PA 21-58 statutory language.

Katherine Bruns, West Hartford’s Recycling Coordinator, expressed the importance of a statewide school recycling curriculum.

Diane Lauricella, Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition, discussed awareness among mini bottle consumers.

Mike Harder commented on the importance of working with DEEP and other state agencies to target the issue of miniatures consumers and potential drinking and driving habits.

Kim O'Rourke, Middleton’s Recycling Coordinator, suggested the working group change its name to Increase Reuse and Recycling since they are looking at other issues beyond recycling. The suggestion was met with widespread approval and was noted by DEEP Staff.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 pm.

Appendix A

Name	Organization
Becky Bunnell	SFTF town of Fairfield
Ben Florsheim	City of Middletown
Denise Raap	First Selectman of Litchfield
Chris Nelson	CT DEEP
Sherill Baldwin	CT DEEP
Luciana Granstrand	CT DEEP
Emma MacDonald	CT DEEP
Bill Watkins	Town of Coventry Public Works Department
Brian Sear	City of New London
Carl Fortuna	Town of Old Saybrook
Carolyn Bayne	Darien Advisory Committee on Sustainability
Chris Lippke	TOWN OF CANTERBURY
Colin Moll	Town of Suffield
Cyril May	Waterbury Public Works
Dan Colleluori	City of Stamford
David Simpson	City of Waterbury
David Aldridge	SCRRA
David Owens	Town of Vernon
Debbie Angell	Regional Refuse Disposal District One
Diana McCarthy-Bercurry	Town of Branford
Dwight Ryniewicz	Town of Vernon – Director DPW
Donna Hamzy	CCM
Donna Pursley	NB Recycling Committee
Douglas Colter	City of West Haven
Ed Mone	Town of Thomaston Ct
Edward Reagan	SSRA
George Estrada	Town of Trumbull
Gregory Lesco	DPW
Janice Ehlemeyer	RiverCOG
Janice Plaziak	Town of Guilford
Jared Schmitt	Town of Fairfield
Jean Speck	Town of Kent
Jennifer Baum	HARRA
Jennifer Heaton-Jones	Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
Jerry Lukowski	Director DPW Southbury
Joe DeRisi	town of hamden
John Cottell	DPW
Julie DesChamps	Waste Free Greenwich

Kasia Purciello	Town of Manchester
Katherine Bruns	Department of Public Works
Kim O'Rourke	City of Middletown CT
Lisa Marotta	Town of Rocky Hill
Maria Lucarelli	Town of Essex
Mayor Pete Bass	Town of New Milford
Michael Rell	Town of Wethersfield
Michael Purcaro	Town of Vernon
Pamela Munro	Salem Bd of Selectmen
Raymond Drew	City of Torrington
Robert Martin	Town of Canton
Sally Davies	Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board
Sam Saunders	Public Works
Shari Cantor	West Hartford
Shaun Gately	Town of Vernon
Stacey Leitch	Town of Groton Public Works
Stephanie Bahramian	Town of Bloomfield
Theresa Christenson	Town of Harwinton
Thomas Dunn	Town Of Wolcott
Todd Rolland	Town of Somers
Virginia Walton	Town of Mansfield
Alice Kosowsky	Hamden Solid Waste & Recycling Commission
Amanda Cox	Liberty Sq Group
Andrew Droney	HRO
April Regan	USA Hauling
Ashley Zane	CBIA
Betsy Gara	COST
Brad Weeks	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Brian Sullivan	Przybysz + Associates Government Affairs
Catherine Matzul	CT DEEP
Chris Phelps	EnvCT
Christopher Antonacci	USA Waste and Recycling
Craig Leroy	Roy & leroy at
David Boomer	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Diane Lauricella	Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition
Douglas Pelham	Cohn Birnbaum & Shea P.C.
Edith Pestana	DEEP
Erik Rison	WestRock Company
George Dews	DEEP
Hillary Glass	RSG
Jessica Olander	CT River Valley Chamber of Commerce

Josh Hughes	Capitol Consulting
Kaelah Smith	CTOAG
Karen Weeks	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Kevin Spinella	GBA
Kevin Sullivan	CT DEEP
Kristen Coperine	NatureWorks
Kristen Brown	WasteZero
Laura Pointek	CT DEEP
Lidia Howard	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Linda Kowalski	The Kowalski Group, LLC
Lisa Fecke	Gaffney, Bennett
Liz Connelly	Capitol Consulting LLC
Lori Martin	Haven's Harvest
Mike Martone	FOCUS Government Affairs
Morgan Treacy	CT DEEP
Nancy McMerriman	Willimantic Food Co op
Nicholas Georges	Household & Commercial Products Association
Pamela Roach	Consultant
Paul Aresta	CEQ
Reagan Kenney	Capitol Consulting, LLC
Rick Mobley	ECO2logy LLC
Samantha Salvatore	Center for EcoTechnology (CET)
Sarah Bloomquist	TOMRA Systems
Sean Hughes	Hughes and Cronin
Susan Eastwood	Sierra Club
Theresa Govert	Senate Democratic Office

Appendix B

